

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 SAM-01 SAJ-01 OMB-01 DRC-01 /107 W

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R 151510Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY VIENNA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1637

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE VIENNA 1403

EO: 11652: N/A

TAGS: PGOV, AU

SUBJ: SOCIALIST PARTY CONGRESS

1. SUMMARY: BIENNIAL SOCIALIST PARTY (SPOE) CONGRESS HELD IN VIENNA FEB 12-15 WAS WELL ARRANGED AFFAIR WITH NO SURPRISES ON RESOLUTIONS, DECISIONS, ELECTION OF MAYOR GRATZ AND FINMIN ANDROSCH TO PARTY PRESIDUM AND CHANGE IN STATUTES PERMITTING KREISKY TO HOLD OFFICE BEYOND 1977. END SUMMARY

2. THIRD SPOE CONGRESS SINCE PARTY CAME TO POWER IN 1970 WAS RATHER LACKLUSTER GATHERING OF PARTY'S 535 DELEGATES UNDER UNDISPUTED LEADERSHIP OF CHANCELLOR KREISKY. IN HIS KEYNOTE ADDRESS, KREISKY REFUTED ANY THOUGHTS OF NATIONAL ELECTIONS BEFORE PARLIAMENTARY TERM ENDS IN 1975, PROVIDED THAT REMAINDER OF GOVERNMENT PROGRAM WILL BE FULFILLED IN REMAINING EIGHTEEN MONTHS, SUPPORTED SOCIALIST WOMEN'S CALL FOR EQUALITY, AND ADVOCATED GREATER TOLERANCE AND COMPASSION FOR YOUTH IN PARTY RANKS WHO SHOULD BE FREE TO CHART OWN COURSE. KREISKY SUPPORTED CENTRAL SECRETARY MARSCH'S CALL FOR GOVERNMENT FINANCING OF POLITICAL PARTIES PROVIDED BOTH OPPOSITION PARTIES AGREED TO PROVISION PROHIBITING USE OF FUNDS FOR ELECTION CAMPAIGNS AND TO ELIMINATION OF TAX EXEMPTIONS ON CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTIONS.

3. ELECTION TO 54-MEMBER NATIONAL EXECUTIVE BOARD REFLECTED  
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LEADERSHIP SUCCESS IN GETTING RID OF CONTROVERSIAL INDIVIDUALS.  
TRADE MIN STARIBACHER REPLACED EX-MAYOR OF VIENNA SLAVIK AND CAR-

INTHIAN SPOE CHAIRMAN AND FUTURE GOVERNOR LEOPOLD WAGNER REPLACED GOVERNOR HANS SIMA WHO WAS OUSTED AS PROVINCIAL PARTY LEADER LAST YEAR. THE EXECUTIVE BOARD ELECTED VIENNA MAYOR GRATZ AND FINMIN ANDROSCH, BOTH OF WHOM ARE CONSIDERED POTENTIAL SUCCESSORS TO KRIESKY, TO THE SPOE PRESIDUM AS DEPUTY PARTY CHAIRMEN. AS EXPECTED, PARTY STATUTES WERE AMENDED TO ALLOW AN OFFICE HOLDER TO SERVE BEYOND 66 YEARS OF AGE IF TWO-THIRDS MAJORITY APPROVES. THIS STEP WAS TAKEN SO THAT KRIESKY WHO WILL BE 66 IN JANUARY 1977 WILL BE ABLE TO HEAD SPOE TICKET IN NEXT ELECTIONS WITH NO STATUTORY HINDRANCE TO SERVE OUT ANOTHER FULL TERM.

4. DETAILS BY POUCH.HUMES

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** POLITICAL PARTIES, MEETINGS, ELECTIONS, FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 15 FEB 1974  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** golinofr  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Office:** ACTION EUR  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** SOCIALIST PARTY CONGRESS  
**TAGS:** PGOV, AU, SPOE  
**To:** STATE  
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